(d) As per Recruitment and Promotion Rules, initially all appointments are made on temporary basis. On successful completion of probation period their services are made permanent, 144 Group 'C' and 27 Group 'D' persons who joined in 2000 and 2001 have since been appointed on permanent basis on successful completion of probation. As regards *adhoc* appointments, these are made due to exigencies of work necessitated by additional construction activities, and are dispensed with on completion of the activities.

Direct flight between Hyderabad and Bangkok

1960. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Centre for one direct flight between Hyderabad and Bangkok;

(b) if so, whether Government would agree to the request;

(c) if so, by when it would be introduced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines is presently operating twice weekly service between Hyderabad and Bangkok *via* Bangalore and Chennai. A request received from Government of Andhra Pradesh in December, 2001 to operate one of these two services directly between Hyderabad and Bangkok, has not been found commercially viable by Indian Airlines.

Operation of Phuket Air from Kolkata to Bangkok

1961. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from M/s Phuket Air to operate flights on "Bangkok-Kolkata-Bangkok" has been forwarded by Government of West Bengal;

(b) whether necessary permission is being accorded by the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) This proposal has not been agreed to by this Ministry as Phuket Air is not presently designated by the Government of Thailand for operation of scheduled air services to India.

Mumbai Airport as an international airline hub

1962. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are seriously considering any proposal for the conversion of Mumbai airport into an international airline hub by treating it as a special economic zone besides creating new private airports on build, operate and transfer basis or build, own and operate basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for conversion of Mumbai Airport into an international hub by treating it a Special Economic Zone. However, the State Government has plans to develop a Special Economic Zone in Navi Mumbai of which the proposed second International Airport at Navi Mumbai is stated to be an integral part.

Special Purpose Vehicle for privatisation of Airports

1963. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a revised proposal has been formulated recently to float a Special Purpose Vehicle, instead of outright leasing, for each of the four metropolitan airports for the privatisation programme;

(b) if so, the reasons for the revised formulation and the details thereof; and